

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application, wherein:

Listing of Claims

What is claimed is:

1. (previously presented) A linked information system, comprising:
 - A. a set of interfaces configured for enabling communication with a plurality of media content sources over at least one network;
 - B. at least one storage device coupled to the set of interfaces; and
 - C. one or more processors coupled to the at least one storage device and set of interfaces and configured to execute a set of linked information system logic comprising:
 - 1) content selection logic configured for obtaining, from the media content sources, a set of media content relevant to a field;
 - 2) linking logic configured for generating a set of links between media content from the set of media content as a function of a relevance to at least one tracked theme or topic within the field; and
 - 3) update logic configured for updating the set of media content, including incorporating new media content related to the at least one tracked theme or topic into the set of media content and adding, deleting or editing the set of links as a function of the new media content.
2. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the set of links includes hyperlinks organized according to an indicia of importance to one or more tracked theme or topic from the at least one of a tracked theme or topic.
3. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein one or more links from the set of links includes a markup of information within a selected media content from the set of

media content, the markup indicating a relevance of the information to a category related to the at least one tracked theme or topic.

4. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the set of linked information system logic further comprises:

- 4) distribution logic configured for distributing at least some media content from the set of media content to a set of remote users, as a function of an association between the set of remote users and the at least one tracked theme or topic.

5. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the set of linked information logic further comprises:

- 4) user interface logic configured for accepting feedback from a user and for editing the set of media content and for adding, deleting or editing the set of links as a function of the feedback.

6. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the set of linked information logic further comprises:

- 4) expert logic configured to provide access to the set of media content by an expert user and to enable the expert user to generate related supplemental information, wherein the supplemental information is made accessible in association with the set of media content to one or more users over the at least one network.

7. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the set of interfaces facilitates access to the linked information system by a set of remote users, the linked information logic further comprising:

- 4) forum logic configured for hosting a plurality of interactive user discussion forums organized according to the at least one tracked theme or topics and accessible by users from the set of remote

users via the at least one network.

8. (previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one storage device comprises a user database configured to store in association with a user a set of tracked themes or topics selected by the user as user preferences, and a set of user email information related to the set of selected themes or topics.

9. (previously presented) The system of claim 8, the linked information logic further comprising:

- 4) a set of email generator logic configured to generate email communications to the user in response to updates in a selected set of media content and a set of related links associated with the set of tracked themes or topics represented in the user preferences.

10. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the set of media content includes at least two media content and at least one link in the set of links, the at least one link further identifying a set of internal dynamics relating to the at least two media content, such internal dynamics representing threads of meaning existing within the at least two media content over time related to the at least one tracked theme or topic.

11. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the field is related to at least one of domestic or international economics, politics, law, business, finance, unemployment or current events, or energy or an external view of countries and regions.

12. (withdrawn) A computer program product for linking information, the computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer readable program code thereon, the computer program code comprising:

- A. a program code for obtaining, from a set of media content sources, a set of media content relevant to a field;
- B. a program code for generating a set of links between media content from

the set of media content as a function of a relevance to at least one tracked theme or topic within the field; and

- C. a program code for updating the set of media content, including incorporating new media content related to the at least one tracked theme or topic into the set of media content and adding, deleting or editing the set of links as a function of the new media content.

13. (withdrawn) The computer program product of claim 12, further comprising:

- D. a rolling program code adapted to hibernate and revive themes and topics from the at least one tracked theme or topic as a function of a change in relevance of the themes or topics within an updated set of media content, the updated set of media content embodying a change in current events.

14. (withdrawn) The computer program product of claim 12, further comprising:

- D. a survey results display program code adapted to generate survey information for display at one more user devices, the survey information comprising topically organized media content, from the set of media content in combination with an interpretation of the media content; and
- E. an input processing program code adapted to process inputs representing user feedback received from the one or more of the user devices, wherein the survey results display program code is further adapted to update the survey information to include the user feedback and an adjusted interpretation of the media content as a function of the user feedback.

15. (withdrawn) The computer program product of claim 12, wherein said field is related to at least one of domestic or international economics, politics, law, business, finance, unemployment or current events, or energy an external view of countries and regions.

16. (withdrawn) The computer program product of claim 12, further comprising:

- D. a display program code adapted to generate information related to the set

of media content for display on at least one user device, wherein the display program code includes:

- 1) a window management program code configured for generating for display on the at least one user device a plurality of active windows configured to graphically depict a risk-opportunity relationship related to at least one theme or topic from the at least one tracked theme or topic, wherein the plurality of active windows forms a spectrum comprising a first end and a second end defining a low risk and high opportunity relationship at substantially the first end, and a high risk and low opportunity relationship at substantially the second end; and
- 2) a topical information program code configured for generating topical information representing a plurality of subtopics related to the at least one theme or topic, the topical information configured for populating the plurality of active windows.

17. (withdrawn) The computer program product of claim 12, further comprising:

- D. a display program code adapted to generate information related to the set of media content for display on at least one user device, the information comprising markup information representing a markup of at least one media content from the set of media content, the markup information indicating a relevance of the at least one media content to at least one theme or topic from the at least one tracked theme or topic.

18. (withdrawn) A method of selecting media content within a linked information system, at least one or more steps of the method configured to be carried out by a computer system having access to a network of media content sources and a set of remote users, the method comprising:

- A. from the media content sources, obtaining a set of media content relevant to a field and a hypothesis, wherein the hypothesis represents an

information evolution related to at least one tracked theme or topic within the field;

- B. generating a set of links between media content from the set of media content as a function of relevance to the at least one tracked theme or topic;
- C. monitoring the media content sources in substantially real time for new media content relevant to the at least one tracked theme or topic and updating the set of media content to include the new media content and updating the set of links as a function of the new media content;
- D. identifying internal dynamics within the set of media content, such internal dynamics representing threads of meaning existing within the media content over time and related to the at least one tracked theme or topic;
- E. determining at least one new hypothesis as a function of the internal dynamics, including deriving a new information evolution from the internal dynamics; and
- F. querying the network of media content sources for new media content relevant to the at least one new hypothesis.

19. (withdrawn) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

- G. updating the set of media content to include the new media content and developing links between media content from the set of media content based on relevance of information within the set of media content to the at least one new hypothesis.

20. (withdrawn) The method of claim 18 further comprising:

- G. updating the set of links based on a relevance of the information within the set of media content to the at least one new hypotheses.

21. (withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein step D comprises determining

underlying dynamics of the information, wherein the underlying dynamics represent information embodied in streams that carry meaning at many levels, and these levels are delineated in real time as media content from the set of media content is received.

22. (withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein step D comprises determining how media content from the set of media content changes over time.

23. (withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein step D comprises determining metamorphosing dynamics of the information, wherein the metamorphosing dynamics represent changes in an informational direction that can be delineated in real time as media content from the set of media content is received.

24. (withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein step D comprises determining concealed dynamics of the information, wherein the concealed dynamics represents information inferred or derived from the set of media content.

25. (withdrawn) The method of claim 18 comprising evaluating the at least one new hypotheses over time as a function of new information included within the new media content and relevant to the at least one new hypotheses.

26. (withdrawn) The method of claim 18, comprising grouping media content from the set of media content based on a relevance of information contained in the media content.

27. (withdrawn) The method of claim 26, comprising regrouping media content from the set of media content over time based on an analysis of relevance of information contained in the media content.

28. (withdrawn) The method of claim 18, further comprising updating the set of media content, including incorporating the new media content into the set of media content and adding, deleting or editing the set of links as a function of the new media content.

29. (withdrawn) The method of claim 28, further comprising updating the set of links between media content from the set of media content over time based on an analysis of a relevance of information contained in the media content.

30. (withdrawn) The method of claim 18, comprising marking up key portions of selected media content from the set of media content based on relevance of information contained in the set of media content.

31. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, further comprising developing links between the selected media content based on the marked-up portions of the selected media content.

32. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, comprising deselecting media content from the set of media content over time as a function of an irrelevance of the information contained in the set of media content.

33. (withdrawn) The method of claim 18 comprising adjusting information of media contents from the set of media content for at least one skewed effect, wherein the at least one skewed effect represents and overstatement or understatement of information contained within the media content.

34. (withdrawn) A method of cross-linking media content comprising a set of news reports, at least one or more steps of the method configured to be carried out by a computer system having access to a network of media content sources, the method comprising:

- A. from the media content sources, obtaining a set of media content relevant to a field;
- B. generating a set of links between media content from the set of media content, including:

- 1) establishing a set of first level links between the media content as a function of a relevance to at least one tracked theme or topic within the field; and
 - 2) creating a set of second level links as a function of a set of internal dynamics of the set of media content, such internal dynamics representing threads of meaning existing within the media content over time;
- C. monitoring the media content sources in substantially real time for new media content relevant to the at least one tracked theme or topic;
- D. determining an evolution of the media content as a function of the new media content and their relevance to the at least one tracked theme or topic; and
- E. updating the set of links, including adding, deleting or editing links within the set of first level links and the set of second level links as a function of the new media content and the evolution.

35. (withdrawn) The method of claim 34, wherein the updating occurs over time as a function of an analysis of newly received information contained within the new media content.

36. (withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein the newly received information includes newly defined topics.

37. (withdrawn) The method of claim 36, wherein the newly defined topics correspond to at least one hypotheses determined by tracking information contained in the set of media content over time.

38. (withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein the newly received information includes new news reports.

39. (withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein the newly received information includes user feedback.

40. (withdrawn) A method of analyzing media content in real time, at least one or more steps of the method configured to be carried out by a computer system having access to a network of media content sources, the method comprising:

- A. from the media content sources, obtaining a set of media content relevant to a field;
- B. generating a set of links between media content from the set of media content as a function of a relevance to at least one tracked theme or topic within the field;
- C. monitoring the media content sources in substantially real time for new media content relevant to the at least one tracked theme or topic and updating the media content and the set of links as a function of the new media content;
- D. deriving from the media content a footprint trail comprising a series of interrelated media content related to the at least one tracked topic or theme over time; and
- E. predicting trends relating to the field, the at least one tracked theme or topic or both, as a function of the footprint trail.

41. (withdrawn) The method of claim 40, comprising identifying a set of big shifts in a series of interrelated events represented in the footprint trail, a big shift in the set of big shifts representing a change in one or more key parameters related to the at least one tracked theme of topic.

42. (withdrawn) The method of claim 41, comprising selecting at least one big shift from the set of big shifts to prompt a redefinition of at least one of the key parameters and developing at least one hypothesis related to the at least one tracked theme or topic as a function of the at least one big shift and redefinition of at least one or the key parameters.

43. (withdrawn) The method of claim 40, wherein the footprint trail corresponds to selected portions of interrelated information contained within the set of media content and links between the selected portions of interrelated information.